United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.16

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
13 November 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 19 October 2006, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Fonseca (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Brazil)

Contents

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence

(b) International migration and development

(c) Culture and development

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

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06-57872 (E)

In the absence of Ms. Intelmann (Estonia), Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/61/486)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (A/61/286)

(b) International migration and development (A/60/871, A/61/187, A/61/73, A/61/91, A/61/170, A/61/230, A/61/315, A/61/316, A/61/321, A/61/343, A/61/345, A/61/346, A/61/506, A/61/515 and A/C.2/61/2)

(c) Culture and development (A/61/86, A/61/321 and A/61/378-S/2006/761)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/61/177)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/61/269, A/61/93, A/61/126 and A/61/181)

1. **Ms. Ferrari** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) emphasized the role of innovation, science and technology in pursuing development in the context of globalization. CARICOM wished to highlight, in particular, the significance of capacity-building through the provision of the requisite technical and financial assistance, in keeping with the support that needed to be given to developing countries in accessing, utilizing and developing appropriate know-how and technologies. Such support would also be particularly important in the areas of trade, FDI and technology transfer, especially for CARICOM given its high degree of openness and economic vulnerability.

2. In an increasingly globalized and integrated world economy, migration was unavoidable. As a major exporter of highly qualified labour, particularly teachers and nurses, the Caribbean region continued to face a number of migration-related challenges, including the highest rates of emigration of tertiary-level graduates. For that reason, the countries of the Caribbean advocated global dialogue to address migration issues and supported the Secretary-General's suggestion for a global consultative forum on migration to be established within the United Nations.

3. The member States of CARICOM reiterated their total condemnation of all corrupt practices, including the transfer of funds of illicit origin, and strongly urged the return of such assets to countries of origin. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption would enable the international community to work together to allow stolen assets to be recovered by the rightful owners. Some member States of CARICOM had already ratified the Convention, while others had begun their preparations to do so.

4. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), noted that the Community had been founded on principles of solidarity, collective self-reliance and interdependence. Those principles continued to motivate its mission to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and development, to be accomplished through efficient and productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration and good governance.

5. While globalization opened up economic opportunities, it also posed challenges. At national level, the economic prescriptions to developing countries that accompanied globalization were well known: removal of capital and exchange controls, privatization of State assets, deregulation of the labour market, and adoption of "sound" monetary and fiscal policies, which required States to cut public spending in order to reduce budget deficits as well as to reduce money supply through higher interest rates. However, that approach went against common sense, which demanded that expenditure on public services be increased in order to reduce poverty and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Miliennium Development Goals. In spite of the Community's implementation of those economic fundamentals, the subregion still found it difficult to attract FDI, which was the key to sustainable economic development and employment creation.

6. Economic growth was not always accompanied by poverty reduction. Indeed, the process of globalization had led to a worldwide increase in

inequality, poverty and marginalization. Contrary to the World Bank's 1990 prediction that the number of poor people would be reduced from 1.1 billion to 825 million between 1985 and 2000, current estimates were that the total number of people living in poverty had risen above 1.2 billion. Despite reported improvements in trading opportunities for developing countries arising from trade negotiations at various levels, not all countries had benefited equally and some of the poorest countries remained marginalized. The constraints included lack of market access and market entry barriers such as non-tariff measures and supply-side difficulties facing developing countries, especially the least developed countries. Robust measures to address supply-side constraints, in the form of increased aid flows and increased FDI, could assist developing countries effectively to integrate into the global economy. Technology transfer, fair trade and capacity-building were also elements that needed to be considered.

7. For many of the SADC countries, trade liberalization alone was not a panacea that would bring economic growth and development. Such countries needed to be assisted to build their trading capacity to enable them to compete globally. The Aid for Trade Initiative should enable developing countries to improve their trading capacities, adjust to changing rules and trade patterns and enhance their participation in global trade.

8. Global institutions must follow a rule-based system that applied a uniform set of principles to all countries and regions, taking into account the need for special and differential treatment for developing countries. Developing countries would only benefit fully from globalization once all concerned adhered to such a system. It called for the implementation of both the 2005 World Summit Outcome and General Assembly resolution 60/265 on development follow-up, as well as the completion of the Doha Development Round negotiations.

9. The 2005 World Summit Outcome had stressed the crucial role of science and technology in achieving the internationally agreed development goals. The second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis in November 2005, had further highlighted the need to establish an inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone could create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge in order to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

10. Globalization was characterized by an international technological divide, which was one of the causes of the rapidly expanding socio-economic gap between the developed and the developing countries. The Secretary-General had recommended in his report on the role of innovation, science and technology in pursuing development in the context of globalization (A/61/286) that policies on science, technology and innovation had ultimately to be devised by countries according to their own unique needs, their priorities and their stages of development. Updating of national policies in accordance with the evolving nature of technology and scientific advancement would enable developing countries to bridge the digital divide. SADC called on the international community to assist the subregion to invest in science and technology-related education and training. The global rules governing scientific knowledge needed to be flexible so that scientific learning and application through research and development could be fostered. Industrial development would enable the subregion to add value to its raw materials and realize increased returns on the global market, while technology transfer to the subregion would improve productivity and contribute to sustainable development.

11. SADC welcomed the ongoing global dialogue on international migration and development. International migration was a complex and evolving phenomenon that offered as many challenges as opportunities. SADC needed to manage international migration so as to fruitfully harness and maximize its development benefits. It therefore urged that more effort be expended on helping the developing countries to build institutional capacity through the implementation of existing commitments from past United Nations conferences and summits. A follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should be held under the auspices of an intergovernmental body such as the General Assembly, in order to maintain the momentum created in September 2006.

12. The SADC subregion currently faced a shortage of physicians, nurses and teachers as they left for developed countries. Since those professionals were critical to the proper functioning of any public sector and to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium

Development Goals, ways should be found to mitigate the subregion's loss.

13. International migration could not be managed unilaterally, which meant that partnerships and bilateral agreements were greatly needed. To that end, SADC member States shared a common set of goals covering enhancing the development impact of international migration, ensuring that migration occurred mainly through legal channels and also ensuring the protection of the human rights of migrants and preventing their exploitation. A SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Free Movement of Persons was at an advanced stage of negotiation.

14. **Ms. Tufail** (Pakistan) said that the High-level Dialogue had demonstrated the seriousness of international migration and development issues and moved the migration and development debate to a higher plane, illustrating the desire of the widest United Nations membership to continue global dialogue on international migration and development. Throughout human history, migration had been a courageous expression of an individual's will to explore new horizons and to live a better life. Today migration was an important part of the development debate, as it involved the growth of people, economies and countries. One of the basic needs of migrants was for efficient remittance of their earnings to their families in the home country. There was an obvious need for regulatory frameworks to facilitate remittances at low costs, and for creation of incentives for their productive utilization, in line with countries' development priorities and needs.

15. While remittances from migrants were helpful, their overall impact on development had not been substantiated. Remittances should therefore continue to supplement, not supplant, development assistance. There was also a need to engage the diasporas and utilize their expertise acquired abroad, in order to counter the impact of brain drain and gain benefit from brain circulation and skill development. Adequate and transparent mechanisms were needed to channel migration in a safe, legal, humane and orderly manner, in order to combat irregular migration and prevent enabling conditions for organized crime and exploitation of people. The protection of the rights of migrants and victims of trafficking was of great concern to Pakistan.

16. Pakistan had consistently advocated a scientific approach to deal with international migration and development issues, one that relied on comprehensive and analytical studies to examine the contributions that migrants made to the development of both sending and receiving States. That was also in line with the evidence-based approach advocated by the Secretary-General in his report, which was critical to demystifying the debate and myths created around international migration.

17. Without the requisite machinery and institutional support, it would be difficult to bring about the much-needed coordination on migration issues. The arrangement, whatever its eventual form or shape, should be agreed intergovernmentally through a transparent and inclusive process, be based on existing arrangements in order to avoid duplication and overlap and report to the United Nations. One solution might be to allow the Global Migration Group to meet intergovernmentally under the Economic and Social Council. Pakistan had also taken note of the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a global consultative forum and Belgium's offer to host its first meeting.

18. **Mr. Sardenberg** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of MERCOSUR, reported on the measures taken by that grouping on the topic of migration, which had been a concern of MERCOSUR since its foundation in 1991. The Santiago Declaration, while recognizing the right of States to secure their frontiers, laid down certain fundamental rights for migrants. It promoted initiatives to facilitate migratory flows, since regularization of migration, rather than persecution of migrants, was the only way to ensure their full integration into society in the destination country. It also stressed the importance of reunifying families, as a contribution to the stability of migrants.

19. The countries of MERCOSUR had signed agreements permitting each other's nationals to live, study and work on each other's territory in conditions identical to those enjoyed by their nationals. MERCOSUR and its associated States, Bolivia and Chile, had also taken initiatives to control illicit traffic in migrants and trafficking in persons. They included awareness-raising campaigns, to be launched simultaneously in all the countries of the region, compilation of relevant information and mechanisms for regularizing the situation of victims.

20. Following the Sixth South American Conference on Migration, held in Paraguay, the Declaration of Asunción had stressed the need for unrestricted observance of the human rights of migrants, the close links between migration and development and the importance of remittances as private flows of funds, which must not, however, be regarded as a substitute for ODA. It had also stressed the importance of the developed countries' including the variable of migration in other spheres of international negotiations, and had called on destination States to put in place policies for the social inclusion of migrants, at the same time as policies outlawing trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking in migrants and organ trafficking.

21. At the 30th meeting of its Council, in July 2006, the Presidents of members of MERCOSUR and its associated States had reached agreement on a programme to regularize migration between their countries and on the verification of travel documents of minors. Suggesting that the agreements reached within MERCOSUR could act as a model for other countries, he drew attention to the contribution of MERCOSUR to the debate on migration, described in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/321).

22. Speaking as the representative of Brazil on item 55 (d), he said that several international studies indicated that corruption was much more than an ethical problem. It hindered development, not only by diverting resources meant to address deep-seated social problems but also by weakening the credibility of public institutions intended to promote sustainable growth with social justice.

23. Progress in the fight against corruption at the international level was demonstrated by the signing by as many as 140 countries of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as of 20 June 2006. Progress had also been made at the national level, as an increasing number of financial institutions were implementing comprehensive due diligence and vigilance regimes to counter illicit transfers of resources. But further international cooperation was needed to ensure that efficiency, transparency and accountability existed throughout the public sectors in both developed and developing countries, particularly with regard to asset recovery.

24. Caution was called for in equating corruption with lack of governance, since there were numerous cases of corruption in solid democracies. Whereas corruption must be combated using all means, including external support, excessive focus on it would limit the broader discussion on governance. It would thus be unwise to halt all development cooperation until the fight on corruption had been won, for that might lead to added instability or more repressive Governments. Instead, measures should be taken to ensure that international cooperation resources reached the intended destination and were not diverted to illicit purposes. Corruption was a two-way street, since the possibility of profitable investment of the proceeds of corruption in various global financial institutions increased the temptation to divert public resources.

25. International cooperation was at the core of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. However, such cooperation faced three major obstacles: differences in national judicial systems; domestic legal constraints on the collection and admission in court of judicial evidence; and the need to respect individual rights. Those challenges had to be faced realistically if progress was to be made in the joint effort to curb corruption.

26. **Mr. Muffadal** (Sudan) said that his delegation looked forward to the establishment of a follow-up mechanism to the High-level Dialogue. International migration not only had an economic dimension but also served to bring peoples and civilizations closer. It affected not only the individual migrants but the societies of the country of origin and the host country. United Nations agencies and their international partners needed to address the root causes of migration, such as poverty, war and natural disasters, and also to work for better integration of migrants into destination societies in order to maximize the benefits of international migration while mitigating its adverse effects.

27. In the Sudan, a long history of migration had created unity in diversity. But the recent increase in immigration into the Sudan from the South coupled with a decline in emigration had had consequences for the country's resources, stability and social fabric that were beyond its capacity to address. His country appealed for assistance in stemming the brain drain, combating illegal immigration and human smuggling and maintaining contacts between immigrants and their homelands. The international community could address the root causes of migration by intensifying cooperation with the Government of the Sudan for

peace in all parts of the country, as well as for sustainable development, poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Sudan also hoped for an end to unilateral sanctions that placed restrictions on Sudanese immigration to certain countries and on remittances from Sudanese workers to their homeland, which were the country's major source of hard currency.

28. **Mr. Dall'Oglio** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) described migration as one of the defining phenomena of the present time, which in 2006 had attracted increased political attention as a result of the catalytic effect of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly had conducted in September 2006. IOM had been deeply involved in supporting preparatory activities for the Dialogue, promoting reflection and debate through a series of events co-organized with a variety of partners. He acknowledged the cooperation of national authorities, United Nations departments, agencies, programmes and funds, as well as many other regional and non-governmental organizations, and also the private sector.

29. The High-level Dialogue had promoted debate on a wide range of crucial issues, offering a rare opportunity for an open, non-confrontational global discussion on ways to enhance the positive effects of migration and minimize its negative consequences. Many of its conclusions echoed the key messages that IOM itself had been sending during the lead-up period, and the Organization looked forward to helping make the follow-up a success. In that connection, three areas would be particularly important.

30. The first related to stepped-up measures to make migration work for development, using two main approaches: mainstreaming migration into development planning agendas and building capacity to deal more effectively with the global labour market. IOM was pursuing the first approach in a few pilot countries. In Ghana, for instance, it was assisting the Government to reflect migration issues in national development strategy, specifically the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. It was also working to mobilize other development cooperation partners to give priority to the development of tools whereby Governments could integrate migration issues into poverty reduction strategies. With regard to the second approach, IOM had presented at the High-level Dialogue a conceptual mechanism to facilitate capacity-building for safe, legal and orderly participation in the global labour market, and was currently working with several partners on refining the concept.

31. The second area was inter-agency coordination. Although IOM was the sole intergovernmental organization with an across-the-board migration mandate, it recognized the need for partnership among many agencies and entities involved in various aspects of migration, in accordance with their areas of expertise. With that objective, in 2003 IOM had been among the co-founders of the Geneva Migration Group, comprising six agencies with an interest in migration issues. In early 2006, with the encouragement of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Geneva Migration Group had been expanded and renamed the Global Migration Group. Such a coordination mechanism could play a crucial role in enhancing policy coherence and optimizing programming complementarity to support the beneficial aspects of migration. It would be helpful if United Nations Member States would continue to acknowledge the work of the Group and encourage its further strengthening.

32. The third important area was intergovernmental cooperation. The High-level Dialogue had underlined the need for strengthening cooperation among Governments at all levels, with regional organizations and consultative processes being recognized as useful forums for a sustained dialogue on migration and development. Likewise, the International Dialogue on Migration, launched by the IOM Council in 2001, was acknowledged as having helpful potential. The Secretary-General had made an important proposal to create a consultative, non-binding forum for debating migration at the global level. As several Member States had acknowledged during the High-level Dialogue, it would appear sensible to associate the Global Migration Group agencies collectively and individually with that endeavour, and to ask them to contribute their respective technical expertise. At the same time, the global forum could give the GMG agencies a platform to present their migration-related activities to a wider constituency than their own governing bodies.

33. The deliberations within the Second Committee offered a unique opportunity to translate the goodwill which had emerged from the High-level Dialogue into guidelines for action, in order to help all involved to

move from words to concrete, results-oriented activities.

34. **Mr. Lee** Tae-woo (Republic of Korea) said that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had heightened awareness among Governments of the development potential of migration, which could substantially benefit both countries of origin and countries of destination. In order to make full use of the benefits of remittances, transnational transaction fees had to be reduced. In addition, appropriate financial systems needed to be introduced to enhance productivity in countries of origin.

35. Migration also had negative effects, however. It could generate social problems, political tensions and security challenges. Moreover, its costs and benefits were not evenly distributed, either among countries or among social groups within them. To maximize the benefits of migration and contain the social disruption it caused, comprehensive and coherent migration policies must be devised in all concerned countries, with due consideration of the specific situation in each country. International cooperation for that purpose was crucial. The recently established Global Migration Group should serve to enhance coordination and cooperation among international organizations working in the field of migration and development. At the same time, regional efforts, such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, should be embraced.

36. With regard to the issue of corruption, his delegation welcomed the swift entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the rapid increase in the number of States parties. The Republic of Korea was preparing to ratify the Convention. In recent years, his country's Government had dedicated itself to fighting corruption, implementing a variety of policies to increase the transparency and efficiency of the public sector, including the landmark Korean Pact on Anti-Corruption and Transparency. Those efforts would be stepped up in the future. The Republic of Korea stood ready to share its strategies and experience and to cooperate with other countries in their anti-corruption efforts.

37. **Mr. Sambo** (Nigeria) observed that, six years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, the high hopes for globalization remained unfulfilled. Its uneven impact on the economies of developing countries was generally recognized. Neither had subsequent international summits had any significant impact thus far. More attention was needed to the assessment of implementation roles, responsibilities and results. Within the United Nations system, coordination, coherence and consistency must be enhanced. The General Assembly must maintain its universality and be more visible in its decision-making, and the Economic and Social Council must, under a stronger mandate, maintain its role of coordination and follow-up to international conferences, while development partners must continue to honour their commitments. At the same time, international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes must be reformed to give developing countries more voice and participation.

38. Turning to the issue of migration and development, he said that widening economic and social gaps between countries, inequitable benefits from globalization, internal conflict and insecurity were among the factors propelling international migration. While migration made it possible for destination countries to meet their labour demands, it also deprived countries of origin of highly skilled personnel. Moreover, as had been widely discussed during the High-level Dialogue, migration could be associated with human rights violations. Nigeria recognized the right of a country to determine its migration policies, but was opposed to any form of maltreatment of migrants, including exploitation, forceful repatriation and other dehumanizing treatment. Countries must resist the temptation of xenophobia or discrimination under the guise of measures to ensure national security. The Nigerian Government had taken several measures in relation to migration, including the adoption of a national development strategy which sought to eradicate poverty and the appointment of special advisers on diaspora matters, human and child labour and trafficking, and migration and humanitarian affairs. Nigeria welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a consultative forum to enhance a coherent and well-coordinated migration strategy at all levels. The forum would provide an umbrella for States and other relevant stakeholders to continue the dialogue on migration issues in the absence of an institutional arrangement within the United Nations system.

39. With regard to the issue of culture and development, there was a growing consensus that development strategies had to be embedded in the cultural traditions of each society. Cultural diversity and dialogue had a significant role to play in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

40. Nigeria welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and joined the Secretary-General in appealing to countries that had not yet done so to accede to the Convention. His delegation also welcomed the establishment of the Global Compact and the addition of the tenth principle, actively involving the private sector in anti-corruption efforts. Corruption was a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation, since it diverted resources from activities to enhance economic development and endangered the stability and security of societies. His country had made strenuous efforts to implement the Convention by strengthening its institutional and legal capacity to prevent the diversion and laundering of assets and facilitate the return and disposition of such assets. Like other developing countries, however, Nigeria needed technical support and capacity-building to further its anti-corruption efforts.

41. **Ms. Halliyadde** (Sri Lanka) said that international migration was increasingly being perceived as a force that could contribute to development. Clearly, migrants made important contributions to the economic prosperity of their host countries, but the flow of financial, technological, social and human capital back to countries of origin was also having a significant impact on poverty reduction and economic development in those countries. Indeed, remittances from migrants were a major source of capital for developing countries.

42. Globalization had increased the mobility of labour, giving rise to new patterns of migration, the magnitude and complexity of which made migration a high-priority issue for both developing and developed countries. Policies in developed countries continued to favour the admission of skilled workers rather than low-skilled workers. Developing countries could ill afford such a brain drain, however, as the loss of trained manpower affected the level and quality of education and health care in the country of origin.

43. The most pressing issue in relation to migration was that of safeguarding the social, labour and human rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status. Women, who now made up as much as 80 per cent of the migrant population in some countries, were at especially high risk of exploitation, violence and abuse, as they frequently ended up in low-status, low-wage jobs and often worked in unregulated sectors of the economy. Women migrants were also particularly vulnerable to human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation.

44. It was important for destination countries to address demands for public services, education, health care and housing for migrants. At the same time, responsibility must be shared between countries of destination and countries of origin. International cooperation was more than ever needed to establish a normative framework acceptable to all countries concerned in order to better manage migratory movements and protect international migrants. There were already international conventions which provided a sound framework of principles and good practices with respect to labour migration. In that regard, Sri Lanka called on all States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The International Labour Organization Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration could also serve as a valuable guide. In addition, in order to curb illegal migration, opportunities must be provided for legal migration. To maximize the benefits and contain the social disruption caused by migration, comprehensive and coherent migration policies must be devised in all countries concerned, with due consideration of the specific situation of each country. The recently established Global Migration Group should serve to enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among international organizations working in the field of migration and development. Her delegation underscored the importance of continuing international dialogue at all levels aimed at finding solutions to all issues pertaining to migration and migrants' rights.

45. **Mr. Blas** (Philippines) said that, as a country with a sizeable portion of its population working overseas, the Philippines attached particular importance to the issue of migration. His delegation shared many of the views put forward by the Secretary-General in his report on migration and development (A/60/871), in particular his call for intergovernmental cooperation on international migration. Migration was an enduring phenomenon with multidimensional

implications which required sound management at the global level in order to have positive effects for both sending and receiving countries, as well as to address its negative effects for sending countries. The Global Commission on International Migration had made 33 recommendations to strengthen national, regional and global governance of international migration, which the recently concluded High-level Dialogue had taken duly into account. His delegation called for a continuing process of consultation between and among sending and receiving countries in order to maintain the momentum of the dialogue. Ideally, that process should take place under the auspices of the United Nations. However, if the prospects for the early evolution of a United Nations mechanism were stalled by tedious and protracted negotiations, a more feasible option for carrying on an informal process of consultations would be to proceed with an open-ended global forum, which might eventually be mainstreamed within the United Nations.

46. The Philippines had established several agencies that catered to the needs of Philippine migrant workers, their protection and the maximization of their contributions to the development of their host countries. His country's institutional and legal framework had been cited by United Nations agencies as a possible model for similarly situated countries.

47. The promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, whether documented or otherwise, could not be separated from the development dimension of migration. The Philippines called on all Member States that had not yet done so to affirm the importance of migration and development by acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

48. The Philippines had co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 60/206 on facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrants' remittances. Much work remained to be done in that regard, and the consensus of the international community would be very useful for migrants.

49. **Mr. Alizadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that measures should be taken to follow up actively on the High-level Dialogue, with the participation of all stakeholders, including Member States and relevant civil society and international organizations, in order to minimize the negative consequences of international migration and maximize its benefits. Although international migration occurred essentially as a result of the decisions taken by individuals and families, it affected the relationship among the States concerned. A realistic and global vision was thus needed to address the issue, with due attention to the root causes of the phenomenon. Globalization had certainly contributed to the movement of people around the globe, but poverty, social exclusion, unemployment, lack of adequate investment, imbalances and inequalities in the international trading system, uncontrolled population growth, violence, discrimination, and the widening gap in well-being were among the other factors fuelling migration. The increase in the number of female migrants and other vulnerable social groups should also be a source of concern for the international community.

50. Virtually all countries were affected by migration, whether as origin, destination or transit countries. Migration was not just a South-North issue; it also occurred between countries of the South. Individual countries would clearly not be able to manage the phenomenon in an appropriate way without bilateral, regional and international cooperation. Building national capacities, particularly in developing countries, through the establishment of necessary infrastructures, the creation or modification of relevant legal regimes, the formulation of national strategies on migration, the exchange of information, experiences and best practices, and the allocation of adequate resources for such measures would help the international community meet the new challenges posed by migration.

51. Migrants obviously contributed to development in destination countries but also, through the transfer of technical knowledge and capital to their countries of origin, advanced development in that group of countries. Therefore, removal of the obstacles that migrants faced to the transfer of knowledge and expertise from destination countries, facilitating and lowering the cost of remittances and enhancing the safety of migrants were crucial to the process of development.

52. Iran, as a country of origin, destination and transit for migrants, had taken various measures to address migration issues, including several training courses on the management of migration, with support from the International Organization for Migration; enactment of a new law criminalizing human

trafficking and establishing punishments for perpetrators; establishment of a national cooperation mechanism involving several ministries; and, at the regional level, participation in the ministerial meeting of Greece, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, held in December 2005, on fighting illegal migration and trafficking in persons.

53. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) said that globalization offered a unique opportunity for San Marino to achieve economic and social growth. His country realized that it must focus on long-term factors such as open markets, investment in financial resources, multiculturalism, declining industrial production costs and increased productivity, which must be combined with the development of a universal, fair and rule-based competitive environment.

54. San Marino was also well aware of the need to implement coherent and consistent economic policies and to practice good governance and of the importance of State responsibility and accountability. International growth must not be hindered by protectionism or by the quasi-monopolistic actions of certain multinational companies. His country strongly supported the transfer of knowledge and technology, which could speed global growth and improve living standards. It also welcomed stronger planning by the United Nations in the areas of trade, capital flows, intellectual property rights and migration, and supported regional and global cooperation among developing countries through the active participation of all sectors of civil society and the private sector in national policymaking. San Marino was not afraid to invest in the short term because it firmly believed that it could achieve a number of long-term benefits as a result of a fair and balanced globalization process.

55. **Mr. Manor** (Israel), said that Israel, as a country that absorbed immigrants from all over the world and committed substantial resources towards their integration, had a wealth of experience to offer other countries facing similar challenges. Its expertise in training could also be used to enhance the coordination of migration and development policies. Israel had significant experience in the area of international cooperation and the development of international partnerships. It was willing to enter into further bilateral, multilateral and regional partnerships and share its expertise in immigration, which could be adapted to suit the needs of any country.

56. Israel's Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre worked with IOM and Israel's Centre for International Migration and Integration to provide courses on migration-related topics, and in September 2005 the three institutions had jointly organized a major international conference for women leaders, focused on issues relating to migration, gender and the diaspora within the development context.

57. The conference had culminated in the Haifa Declaration, which asked the United Nations Special Adviser on Gender and Advancement of Women to bring its conclusions, recommendations and report to the attention of the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on international migration and development. In order to implement the recommendations, the specific actions to be taken should include gendered profile studies on diasporas in countries of destination, gendered household surveys of the beneficiaries of remittances in countries of origin, joint actions by countries of origin and destination to engage women diaspora leaders in the planning and execution of development programmes, research studies to examine the impact on family and society of changes in gender roles resulting from female migration, and the sharing of knowledge and information among countries of origin and destination on best practices relating to gender, migration and development issues.

58. **Mr. Baird** (Australia) said that his country's development owed much to its success in harnessing the benefits of migration. It was accepting larger numbers of temporary migrants, and migration to Australia had benefited countries of origin, including developing countries, not least by providing opportunities for income generation. Experience had taught Australia that the benefits of migration were maximized when it was well managed, which meant that it should be facilitated through legal channels, in a legal, safe and orderly fashion, with a view to protecting not only the legitimate interests of States but also migrants' human rights.

59. Managing migration, while simultaneously enhancing its developmental benefits, required well-designed national migration policies backed by an effective administrative capacity. Maximizing national capacities was therefore of central importance. Australia agreed with the Global Commission on International Migration that the international community should support the efforts of States to formulate and implement national migration policies

through the contribution of resources, appropriate expertise and training. Where appropriate, policies to improve national migration capacity might be integrated into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies.

60. States' capacities to manage migration varied, and were not necessarily related to their overall level of development. Their migration goals also varied in accordance with their economic, demographic, social and humanitarian objectives. The Bali Process was an excellent example of how countries of origin, transit and destination with varying capacities and policy objectives could cooperate on practical and achievable outcomes. Regional approaches were the most effective form of international cooperation on migration.

61. With respect to the Secretary-General's proposal for a global consultative forum on international migration and development, Australia believed that the success of any new forum depended on whether it could add value to the work of existing bodies and processes. If the forum was established, it should include a focus on capacity-building in migration management and use the significant contributions of existing regional consultative processes. Australia favoured bringing together key actors from the various regional processes to facilitate an exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in policy and operational manners. Any such process would need to involve small-group, subject-specific exchanges among expert participants which would allow for detailed and in-depth discussion. It would also need to draw on the considerable expertise of IOM, avoid duplicating existing structures and activities, and avoid making too many demands on States' time and resources.

62. **Mr. Lomba** (Gabon) said that his delegation generally supported the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development (A/60/871), especially those which emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation and continued dialogue. As a result of unchecked globalization and inequality of opportunities, the phenomenon of migration had divided the world into countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination.

63. The forms taken by migration were diversifying, with all sectors of society being affected, with women accounting for almost half of all international migrants, and with young people seeking better prospects elsewhere in increasing numbers. African countries had reacted to the problem of migration and development by adopting a common position and a strategic framework, which together represented an initial step towards a regional approach.

64. His delegation welcomed the global vision that had emerged from the recent High-level Dialogue, which had highlighted the link between migration and development and identified numerous opportunities that could be offered, through appropriate policies, to countries of origin, transit and destination as well as to migrants and their families. It had also identified the challenges to be faced, notably those relating to the economic and social integration of immigrants, the promotion and respect of their human rights, and the safeguarding of their dignity as human beings.

65. The Dialogue should be pursued under the auspices of the United Nations, and his delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal for a global consultative forum on international migration and development. International migration could make a genuine contribution to development if it was well managed. However, the High-level Dialogue had shown the limitations of many bilateral, regional and international initiatives. The lack of harmonized statistics constituted a major obstacle to progress on the issue, and increased cooperation at all levels was needed. The problem of international migration should be given the same attention as the other issues addressed by the United Nations under its reform programme, particularly in relation to development.

66. **Ms. Nazaire** (Haiti) also welcomed the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development (A/60/871), which provided an excellent overview of the multifaceted aspects of international migration as well as the efforts undertaken by the international community to confront the issue. Her own country provided an excellent demonstration of the link between migration and development. Remittances by its nationals living abroad had amounted to 30 per cent of its GDP in 2004, helping to reduce poverty and, in some cases, enabling children to achieve a higher level of education.

67. The Haitian diaspora had contributed to the country's private sector, notably by promoting business

and financial contacts with destination countries, and the Government was currently exploring ways to develop that process. However, the migration phenomenon also had negative consequences for Haiti's development, which were notably manifested in the loss of skills and in the limitations imposed on the volume and quantity of social services. Many migrant Haitian workers had been contributing to the economies of certain host countries for many years without being given the opportunity to regularize their status. As a result, they were unable to send remittances home through legal channels, having to resort instead to informal methods. They were also subjected to arbitrary detention and mass repatriations. In that context, her delegation welcomed the recommendation contained in the Secretary-General's report that existing bilateral agreements with the major destination countries should be reviewed and new agreements drawn up.

68. In order to maximize the positive synergies between migration and development, her Government recommended seven specific actions. First, steps should be taken to facilitate the migration of temporary and seasonal workers. Second, the situation of the many immigrants living in host countries with an irregular status should be regularized. Third, migrants' rights and interests should be protected. Fourth, steps should be taken to retain or secure the return of highly qualified migrants. Fifth, action should be taken to benefit from the remittances and skills of the diaspora. Sixth, the economic and social conditions in regions with significant emigration pressure should be improved. Seventh, a population policy should be developed and implemented.

69. Haiti would take steps to implement those recommendations and to increase its participation in the relevant regional and global dialogues. It would also gladly participate in the actions to be taken under the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue, and believed that priority should be given to the following measures: organization of regular meetings on the regional consultative processes, provision of increased support for and participation in global coordination mechanisms; attention by the international community to strengthening capacities for integrated policies and national, bilateral and regional actions; increased participation of the private sector and civil society in dialogue and cooperation at all levels; and development of the tools to improve the balance between supply and demand in the labour force at the national, regional and global levels.

70. **Mr. Lukwiya** (Uganda) said that science and technology played a crucial role as a strong driving force for economic growth and development, and the rapidly expanding gap between rich and poor nations was a reflection of the international technology gap that separated them. Developing countries, especially the least developed ones, lacked the necessary capacities to access, disseminate and utilize scientific and technological knowledge, most of which was generated in developed countries and protected by intellectual property rights.

71. International policies should promote the efforts of poor countries to develop a sound scientific foundation, including human talent and the infrastructure to support the transfer of technology and encourage the application of scientific knowledge for development. There was also a need to foster international partnerships with a view to bringing the benefits of information and communication technology to developing countries, many of which were also facing the challenge posed by low levels of investment in science and technology education. A concerted effort should be made at the regional level to develop the necessary institutions and infrastructures. Within the context of South-South cooperation, the potential to develop institutional capacities to promote science and technology had not been exploited, and the United Nations should play a leading role in that regard.

72. The link between migration and development had recently resurfaced as an issue of global interest. The problem of the brain drain had continued to grow, and the current phenomenon of international migration reflected a globalization process that had brought tremendous opportunities for rich countries but had failed to provide jobs where the labour force was located. As globalization proceeded, international migration would continue and even intensify. The challenge for the global community was to adopt migration policies and measures that responded to the needs of countries of origin and destination while also respecting migrants' rights. Such policies should not only respond to short-term and unilateral needs, but also define long-term and sustainable policies. Countries of destination should not interpret their humanitarian obligations on the basis of their economic needs.

73. The recent High-level Dialogue should encourage cooperation and dialogue between countries of origin and destination. Source countries should conclude bilateral agreements with the major destination countries and offer their citizens a certain amount of protection abroad. In order to counteract the brain drain, poor countries should promote contacts between the diaspora communities and their countries of origin. They should also improve working conditions at home and disseminate information about legal migration. Emigrants should be permitted to return home and re-enter countries of destination and, above all, sustainable development should be taken into account in the design of policies to manage migration.

74. **Ms. Zubčević** (Croatia) welcomed the Secretary-General's report on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/61/269), which noted the strong economic performance of those economies in 2004 and 2005. However, high unemployment rates and low labour-force participation rates persisted in many such countries, leading to uneven development and wealth patterns. Thus economic growth was not enough if it was not supported by structural and institutional reforms. If those countries were to complete their transition process and integrate more effectively into the world economy, improvements must be made in areas such as education, innovation, science, labour markets, economic infrastructures, the overall macroeconomic environment, capital flows and financial services.

75. Croatia had achieved macroeconomic stability and was working to improve its creditworthiness, trade balance and investment climate, as well as the foreign investment environment. Challenges remained in the area of fiscal policy, which must become more flexible, and there was a need to develop a capital market. However, Croatia had very solid relations with international financial institutions. In order to build on those positive trends, it must introduce further structural changes at the national level. The process of reforming the private sector and the education, health and judicial systems was already under way. Regional integration was also crucial, and Croatia had made significant progress in that regard. At its current growth rate, it would transform itself from a net aid recipient to a net aid donor by 2013. It was necessary to sustain and further strengthen the Monterrey Consensus, if the countries with economies in transition were to achieve their development goals. Croatia would continue to advocate a stronger voice for those countries in the international financial institutions.

76. **Mr. Gerus** (Belarus) said that the high GDP growth in countries with economies in transition, when measured by the standards of the world economy and the fact that many Central and Eastern European countries were joining the European Union were becoming a pretext for an unjustifiably low level of attention and resources to support their development from organizations of the United Nations system, the industrially developed States and the international community as a whole. That was not surprising, since there were no nationals of Eastern European countries in senior posts in the Secretariat and the region was chronically underrepresented in high-level groups dealing with United Nations reform. Perhaps that was why the report of the Secretary-General was so short on specific, substantial recommendations for improving the quality of the assistance that the United Nations gave to such countries.

77. Belarus therefore requested UNDP, UNICEF, UNCTAD and the Economic Commission for Europe to consider opportunities for optimizing their activity in the region and to be more proactive in bringing the true situation in such countries to the notice of Member States. Few were aware that there were 125 million people living in poverty in Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and that one fifth of them were children; few realized that progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals relating to infant and maternal mortality and access to education was generally worse than in Latin America and many Asian countries; and not enough people knew that primary school enrolment and the social, economic and transport infrastructure were all getting worse. That was because the countries concerned had undergone the most massive socio-economic transformation in the history of the United Nations, were still restoring their economies after the slumps of the 1990s and were still recovering from the armed conflicts that had followed the break-up of the Soviet Union.

78. The 10 countries of the region that were still negotiating to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) were being required to assume a burden of obligations not being borne by current members at comparable levels of development. Integration into the multilateral trading system under just conditions

played a key role not only in resolving socio-economic problems but also in ensuring full integration into the world economy.

79. Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system had no right to ignore such problems: financial and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition must be continued, but it must be better organized, better planned and better targeted to countries in greatest need. That was the purpose of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.11, co-sponsored by Belarus, on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy. His delegation hoped that the text would receive the traditional broad support, and thanked the Group of 77 and China for including assistance to countries with economies in transition in certain other draft resolutions.

80. **Ms. Osman** (Switzerland) said that the United Nations was the ideal forum for reviewing certain aspects of international migration, especially in terms of its links to development. The High-level Dialogue had strengthened international cooperation and opened up innovative and effective ways of combining migration and development, but it was only one stage in the process. Apart from showing the potential of migration, it also underscored the challenges associated with the phenomenon.

81. Greater attention should be paid to the integration of migration into development policies and efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly with respect to the protection and assistance rendered to the victims of trafficking. Noting that women accounted for half the number of international migrants, she said that the international community had only recently grasped the importance of the potential of migrant women, and of their need for further protection. Switzerland hoped for continued dialogue between States and was convinced that the various regional and international platforms and initiatives under discussion presented opportunities for frank and fruitful exchanges on migration and development.

82. The accumulation of ill-gotten assets abroad undermined the integrity of international financial centres and weakened efforts to combat financial crime and money-laundering. The phenomenon of illicit assets held by politically exposed persons involved the fight against corruption, money-laundering and organized crime, development and governance, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation, as well as sovereignty and immunity. In recognition of those challenges, Switzerland had organized informal seminars for government experts aimed at improving coordination among them. Based on that experience, real progress had been achieved in returning assets of illicit origin to their countries of origin, in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

83. **Mr. Nikitov** (Ukraine) said that innovation derived from scientific research and new technologies was the major driving force of long-term economic growth and social well-being. The report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development had addressed the core of the issues involved, and the need for international cooperation in enhancing the development potential.

84. Ukraine had introduced measures to curb illegal migration at the national and international levels, and had given priority to the monitoring of migration processes and to relations with Euro-Atlantic institutions. Having ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Government had adopted anti-corruption strategies that included strict public control over budget expenditures and governmental structures, decent labour conditions for civil servants, and increased oversight and enforcement.

85. He noted the progress achieved by the economies in transition and their integration into the world economy, largely attributable to their sound domestic policies and strategies. Ukraine had progressed in its conversion from a planned to a market economy, and its economic development had been enhanced by reconstruction of the national financial sphere, price liberalization and diminished administrative interference, State regulation of natural monopolies and development of private ownership and private enterprise. However, in facing its challenges, Ukraine needed continued international support. Trade as a major vehicle for economic integration was of particular relevance to Ukraine, which was in the process of acceding to the World Trade Organization.

86. He appealed to the United Nations, its specialized agencies, regional commissions and international financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the transition economies in order to secure their full integration into the world economy. Ukraine was willing to cooperate with interested delegations on the formulation of a draft resolution to that effect.

87. **Mr. Fomba** (Mali) said that migration had assumed new dimensions related to its impact on resident populations. In the aftermath of the High-level Dialogue, the international community recognized the benefits of international migratory movements on development, as well as the need for States to cooperate in establishing partnerships with all stakeholders.

88. As a country of emigrants, immigrants and, with a population in transit, Mali fully subscribed to the conclusions and recommendations of the High-level Dialogue, and had established frameworks for coordination with countries of destination, including banking and other initiatives. For countries such as Mali, international migration must be viewed in relation to factors such as subsidies, which impoverished Malian cotton-growers and forced them out of the country. Instead of exporting more products in which it had comparative advantages, Mali found itself exporting its manpower, thereby undermining its chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the agreed deadline.

89. In recognition of the universal respect for human rights, Mali believed that the men and women who tried to escape a life of misery must be treated humanely, and that their flight should not lead to further suffering or death. That did not mean support for illegal migration, against which the Government had done its utmost to fight.

90. **Mr. Ghigo** (Malta) said that irregular migration had continued to test the economic, social and security capacity of Malta, which had received an unprecedented influx of illegal immigrants over the previous year. There had been a number of humanitarian, economic and social repercussions that affected the immigrants themselves and challenged the daily lives of the local population. He reiterated the need for international support in fighting criminal organizations that derived benefits from illegal immigration while endangering the lives of immigrants. Although there might not be a single solution to the complex issue of irregular migration, it constituted the unacceptable face of international migration.

91. **Mr. Kruljevic** (Serbia) said that the transition economies had improved their performance and that relations with the European Union had played a crucial role in shaping a broad process of integrating their economies into the world economy. The implementation of reforms to establish market-based economies and the development of reliable State institutions had been spurred by links to the European Union. Furthermore, a clear European perspective in areas such as capacity-building and reform of the judiciary could have positive repercussions and bring political stability to South-Eastern Europe. For those reasons, Serbia expected to resume negotiations on stabilization and association with the European Union as soon as possible.

92. He was pleased that the Secretary-General's report in document A/61/269 outlined the progress achieved over the previous two years, in terms of market reform, privatization, enterprise governance, competition, and trade and capital account liberalization. Gross domestic product and exports were increasing steadily, while the foreign trade deficit had decreased, with encouraging signs of a downturn in inflation. In addition, legislation was being strengthened in a number of areas, including foreign investment, profits tax and corruption. Nevertheless, high unemployment, poverty and the situation of refugees and displaced persons posed grave problems. Serbia therefore welcomed international support and FDI in tackling them.

93. Regional cooperation and the establishment of a free trade zone were of the utmost importance. Consequently, Serbia was disappointed by the adoption of certain trade policies that defied attempts at regional economic integration, and hoped that such obstacles to trade would be removed.

94. An adequate policy mix was needed to gradually move trade structures from low to higher value added sectors, and there was further need for the United Nations to provide policy advice and technical assistance.

95. **Ms. Detaille** (Belgium) noted the broad support of the international community for the proposal of the Secretary-General to create a global forum for migration and development, and was pleased that Belgium's offer to host the first session of the forum in 2007 had been accepted. Preparations were already under way in Belgium, and further details concerning the meeting would be provided as soon as they became available. The preparatory process would be transparent and open and the work of the forum should be decisive, operational and action-oriented.

96. **Ms. Aghajanian** (Armenia) said that Armenia's extensive economic reforms had paid off in terms of growth. Standards of living and wages had improved, unemployment had dropped and Armenia had become a member of the World Trade Organization. However, progress was unevenly distributed throughout the territory and more evident in urban areas. In order to spread the benefits of economic growth to each household, the Government had launched a rural development project reflecting the comparative and competitive advantages of each village. The programme was comprehensive, and the participation of local populations at all stages of development and implementation was crucial to its success and sustainability.

97. As in other countries with economies in transition, Armenia's emigrants had fled hardships triggered by economic collapse and blockade. However, in the previous two years, improved economic performance had reversed the outward migration flow. Transfers in the form of remittances from Armenian migrants had reached a level equivalent to six times the amount of ODA it received through all channels. Apart from the benefits to the country, however, the influx of foreign currency had caused the national currency to appreciate, affecting the competitiveness of the economy and exports. Moreover, since only 2 per cent of transfers were invested in business activities, the Government faced the challenge of creating conditions to convert such transfers into a source of direct investment. To that end, it had placed the issue on its cooperation agenda with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and was interested in pursuing it further through bilateral and multilateral dialogue.

98. A comprehensive study might reveal trends in migration and give new insights into the contribution of migrants to the host economies and the factors resulting in their irregular status. Armenia had launched a number of programmes to facilitate the reintegration of returning migrants into society as active contributors, and preliminary results were encouraging.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.17

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
16 November 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 17th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 20 October 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

Contents

Agenda item 40: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*)

(c) Culture and development (*continued*)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*)

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06-58081 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 40: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (A/61/67-E/2006/13)

1. **Ms. Tallawy** (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), introducing the report transmitted by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/61/67-E/2006/13), said that it had been prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with a number of concerned United Nations entities, and was submitted in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/51 and General Assembly resolution 60/183. The report clearly indicated that the social and economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued to deteriorate, as Palestinians struggled to survive in an environment of mounting hardships.

2. Palestinian deaths and injuries resulting from Israel's disproportionate use of force and extrajudicial killings were increasing. Arbitrary arrests and detentions continued, while over 9,000 Palestinian political prisoners remained in Israeli prisons. The destruction and confiscation of property persisted. Israel's restrictions on mobility and closure policies had severed access by Palestinians to health and education services, employment, markets and social and religious networks. Despite some easing of closure, Palestinian movement in the West Bank remained problematic. Access to the Gaza Strip remained closely linked to security incidents. Continued construction of the barrier in the West Bank, which contravened international law and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, further restricted Palestinian access and movement. Adding to the plight of the Palestinians was the growing network of Israeli settlements.

3. Such measures had condemned the majority of the Palestinian population to a life of poverty and deprivation. Unemployment and poverty rates remained high, and malnutrition and other health problems afflicted a growing number of Palestinians. If the current political and economic conditions continued, coupled with the occupation, the future looked bleak for the Palestinians. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Palestinian economy could shrink to levels that had not been witnessed for a generation.

4. On the occupied Syrian Golan, the report documented the fact that, as of 2005, Israeli settlers were occupying 33 settlements, of which 27 were primarily agricultural. The Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan was generally unable to travel to the Syrian Arab Republic, and had experienced increasing limitations on land use because of military and environmental zoning restrictions imposed by Israel. A large number of the Syrian Arab population had lost significant acreage traditionally used for pasture, resulting in changing production, commercial and land-use patterns within a traditionally rural society.

5. Recent events in the Middle East, including the war in Lebanon, the continuation of the conflict and the suffering of the Palestinian and Syrian populations under occupation, underscored how interconnected the region's problems were and how military solutions only complicated, as well as further destabilized, an already precarious situation. The only path forward was a negotiated settlement that would achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on relevant United Nations resolutions and international law.

6. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine) said that the ESCWA report described just a few of the illegal practices of the Israeli occupation force against the Palestinian people and their natural resources. It would be useful if the next report could include a paragraph on the disaggregated total losses sustained during 39 years of occupation.

7. **Mr. Muffadal** (Sudan) said that unfortunately the report had not contained any specific proposal for ending the suffering of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the Occupied Golan. The continuation of Israel's inhuman practices made it impossible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. The continuing Israeli occupation demonstrated the inability of the international system to deal with the humanitarian crisis, and did nothing to prevent others from engaging in such occupation.

8. **Ms. Tallawy** (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) replied that a paragraph providing the disaggregated total losses

sustained during 39 years of occupation could easily be incorporated in the next report, along with some analysis. As for the point raised by the representative of the Sudan, the solution had been proposed at the end of her introduction: the only way forward was a negotiated settlement that would achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on relevant United Nations resolutions and international law.

9. **Mr. Al-Ghanim** (Kuwait), thanking the Executive Secretary for her briefing, said that the report had made no mention of pollution from Israel's nuclear reactor.

10. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt), noting that the report contained disturbing information, expressed concern about the consequences of the Israeli occupation for the environment, and the need for practical ways of helping to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

11. **Ms. Tallawy** (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) said that the issue raised by the representative of Kuwait was of concern to all the people of the region. ESCWA was merely following its mandate and had in the past requested information on the matter from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); it had received none. If delegations wanted more information on the issue in future reports, ESCWA would follow whatever mandate it was given; at present, it depended on information provided by United Nations entities working on the spot.

12. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

13. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine) said that the devastation wrought on the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan by 39 years of Israeli occupation had consequences for future generations. The Palestinians, already humiliated and oppressed by living under a ruthless military occupation, watched helplessly as their land, water and other natural resources were plundered before their eyes. They were forced to live alongside their occupiers' untreated hazardous waste and garbage, tolerate its stench and suffer its life-threatening consequences.

14. Israel continued to construct its illegal wall and to expand its illegal settlements in the West Bank in open defiance of Security Council resolutions and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of July 2004. To justify its illegal actions, Israel presented the international community with a host of carefully crafted pretexts, using the ruse of security considerations to justify its unrelenting violations of international law and disdain for Palestinian rights and resources. Israel's actions on the ground exposed those false pretexts. Its illegal wall would de facto annex approximately 46 per cent of the West Bank's most valuable water resources and at least 10 per cent of its most fertile land. Some 41 Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley alone consumed the equivalent of three quarters of the water used by the entire Palestinian population of the West Bank for domestic and urban purposes. The illegal wall and settlements also impeded Palestinians from gaining access to education, health and other vital services. In the past year, access to UNRWA-contracted health-care facilities in occupied East Jerusalem had decreased by 18 per cent, and newborn mortality now accounted for three quarters of all Palestinian infant deaths. Poverty was officially estimated to affect 62 per cent of the Palestinian population, and current GDP was 25 per cent lower than in 1999.

15. The environment was another victim of Israel's abuses of Palestinian natural resources. In the West Bank, the illegal settlements drained and dumped liquid, as well as hazardous and untreated chemical waste, on Palestinian lands. Israel had also impeded Palestinians from undertaking proper solid waste management in the West Bank, and had annulled their plans to establish proper dumping sites. Tons of garbage were transferred and disposed across the Green Line to the West Bank, specifically to sites that were close to four water wells serving the Nablus area. Such action was a flagrant violation of international environmental law, especially the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which Israel had signed and ratified. One year after Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the menace of Israeli settlements remained in the form of piles of debris, twisted metal, asbestos and concrete, posing a grave danger to residents' health and the environment. Israel had wilfully defied its obligations under international law by not cleaning up the hazardous debris and by impeding the clean-up activities that had been supposed to start immediately following its withdrawal.

16. The violations were neither involuntary nor unavoidable; they were neither exaggerations nor

allegations; they were part and parcel of the documented and systematic policy of creating the prosperity of one people at the expense of another. Violation by Israel of the Palestinian people's permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be neither tolerated nor treated with laxity. Member States must assume their responsibilities under international law, upholding their permanent responsibility in the question of Palestine until it was resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner on the basis of international legality. That was a legal and moral responsibility of the utmost urgency.

17. **Mr. Alzaabi** (United Arab Emirates) said that the Palestinian people continued to suffer from a humanitarian crisis as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation, hostile Israeli policies and Israeli war crimes against them. Israel continued to make incursions into Palestinian cities, killing civilians, demolishing houses and infrastructure, and destroying farm land; to control borders and trade passages, restricting the movement of people and goods, dividing Palestinian lands and blockading cities; to follow its expansionist policy, building the separation wall and settlements, and confiscating Palestinian land; and to seize and pollute water sources. According to a number of recent reports, as a result of the Israeli occupation over two thirds of Palestinians lived below the poverty line; over 40 per cent were unemployed; and half of all children suffered from malnutrition and did not enjoy basic education. In the occupied Syrian Golan, meanwhile, Israel continued to confiscate land and build settlements, reducing land in Arab possession to a mere 6 per cent. It had also been imposing a policy of discrimination and oppression against the Arab population, restricting movement between the Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic, disconnecting families, and denying individuals employment and education opportunities.

18. Reaffirming his delegation's solidarity with the Palestinian people and Government and its support for their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, he urged the international community to redouble its efforts and compel Israel to implement all international resolutions concerned with the Palestinian question and the Middle East. He also urged the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to compel Israel to stop its aggression against the Palestinian people and Arab populations and their properties immediately; to resume peace negotiations, according to the Arab Peace Initiative and the road map; and to heed the July 2004 ICJ advisory opinion. Moreover, Arab populations in the occupied Arab territories should be compensated for all the losses they had endured as a result of Israeli aggression. Lastly, he called on the international community, in particular the international financial institutions, to resume the provision of assistance to the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian people, to enable them to meet their basic needs and build their economic and social institutions, until the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem.

19. **Mr. Makri** (Malaysia) said that the ESCWA report had been submitted to the Economic and Social Council in July and was itself dated 3 May 2006; it might therefore be out of date. For example, it did not mention the latest developments in the areas under consideration, most notably the Hamas victory in the July Legislative Council elections, which had resulted in a cessation of aid, which in turn had exacerbated the already critical situation in Palestine. Malaysia hoped that the formation of a national unity Government would lead to an overall improvement in conditions in Palestine. The report also failed to reflect how much the Palestinian people had suffered since June 2006, when Israel had launched its still ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip.

20. It was clear from the report that the occupation of the Palestinian territory had deepened the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian people; that the closure system was the main cause of both poverty and the deepening humanitarian crisis; and that Israel continued to confiscate Palestinian land and water resources, in violation of the Geneva Conventions and other international laws and norms, and alter the facts on the ground. While the present situation in Palestine was dire, Malaysia was equally concerned about the long-term economic and social situation. He mentioned, in particular, the impact of the barrier on subsistence and movement; the negative impact of Israeli settlements on natural resources and the environment; and the effect of demographic growth on GDP per capita and unemployment.

21. The issue of the permanent sovereignty of Palestine over its natural resources and the Middle East question in general required a comprehensive solution. To that end, Malaysia had called on the United Nations to convene an international conference on the Middle East in order to discuss a comprehensive, just and

durable peace plan, based on relevant United Nations resolutions. Malaysia's support for the Palestinian people had been deep and abiding. For example, it had contributed $16 million to supplement the budgets of 16 Palestinian governorates and, in response to Israel's offensive in Gaza, had convened a special meeting of the Extended Executive of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Putrajaya in August 2006.

22. There could be no peace in the world until the situation in the Middle East was resolved. The international community had a responsibility to act as a catalyst and a neutral broker in such efforts. Malaysia stood ready to play its part.

23. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the ESCWA report was one of many United Nations reports that had documented the unprecedented toll of the occupation on resources and humans. Daily death, injury and imprisonment affected men, women and children alike. The occupation authorities continued to damage the Palestinian people's natural resources by levelling land, uprooting trees and destroying crops and wells. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 had even accused the United Nations of being complicit in the economic coercion being applied to the Palestinian people through its membership in the Quartet and the Security Council's failure to take measures to protect human rights. Meanwhile, Israel continued to build its racist separation barrier, which would turn what was left of Palestinian territory into one giant prison like the former Bantustans of South Africa.

24. The ESCWA report also showed that Israel had turned large portions of agricultural land in the Golan into closed military areas. It was stealing large quantities of floodwaters and had recently started excavations for a dam near the area of separation at Quneitra, which constituted a violation of both international law and the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, and against which the Syrian Arab Republic would defend its interests by all possible means. Israel was levying taxes of up to 50 per cent on Syrian citizens' produce, laying mines near civilian areas, and burying nuclear waste in occupied Syrian territory. Israeli law continued to be applied to Syrian residents of the Golan in contravention of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) which had declared Israel's annexation of the Golan to be null and void. The Israeli Prime Minister had recently asserted that the Golan was an integral part of Israel, and none of the States which were usually so quick to support Security Council resolutions condemning particular States had issued any condemnation of that statement. Delegations should support the resolution to be adopted under agenda item 40 as an expression of principled opposition to occupation, whichever the occupying Power.

25. **Mr. Al-Muharraqi** (Bahrain) said that the ESCWA report showed how Palestinians and Syrians suffered under Israeli occupation and how their resources were being drained despite repeated United Nations resolutions such as General Assembly resolution 60/183. Israel continued to construct the racist separation barrier in the West Bank and around Jerusalem in disregard of international resolutions and the ICJ advisory opinion ruling that barrier to be illegal. The Israeli Government's own map of the barrier showed that a large segment of it extended around Maale Adumim and nearby settlements, causing severe damage to Palestinian infrastructure and property. The report also showed that Israel and its settlers were using over 80 per cent of the water from West Bank aquifers while most Palestinian farms were left to rely on rainwater, that settlers and the armed forces were discharging waste on the West Bank while Israeli closures hindered Palestinian waste management projects, and that pollution from dismantled settlements was posing a hazard in the Gaza Strip. Economic growth in occupied Palestinian territory lagged well behind its potential.

26. In the Syrian Arab Golan, the Arab population had been incorporated into the Israeli system. That population suffered from increasing military and environmental zoning restrictions, and had lost a large amount of traditional pasture land, leaving it dependent on Israeli dairy products.

27. He stressed the importance of a just and comprehensive peace based on the Arab peace initiative, internationally recognized resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

28. **Mr. Al-Suleem** (Saudi Arabia) said that the ESCWA report showed that Israeli occupation measures were contrary to the principles of international human rights law, all revealed religions and international conventions. Israeli practices fuelled extremism, terrorism and the cycle of violence by depriving Palestinians of a future. The King of Saudi Arabia had put forward the peace initiative adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut.

Saudi Arabia had provided material support to the Palestinian people and had called on the international community to urge Israel to release funds owed to the Palestinian people and to facilitate the assistance work of United Nations agencies. The time had come to abandon the illusion that bombs, missiles and collective punishment could solve international problems and to apply international law and the principles of justice.

29. **Mr. Edress** (Egypt) said that the ESCWA report had documented the increasing number of deaths, injuries and arrests in the occupied territories. Land was being confiscated for construction of the West Bank barrier that had been condemned by General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 (2004), trees and crops were being destroyed, and closures and restrictions on movement had increased poverty and deprivation. Israeli forces had destroyed wells, while Israel and its settlers used over 80 per cent of the water from West Bank aquifers, leaving most Palestinian farms dependent on rainfall. Israel had ignored the General Assembly's call not to dispose of waste, including untreated chemical and nuclear waste, in occupied Palestinian territory. The Palestinian economy was suffering, and the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza had not given rise to the hoped-for economic revival there.

30. The report also showed the increasing suffering of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan due to Israeli restrictions and the continued dispersal of families on either side of the line of disengagement. The report's facts and figures were distressing, but Egypt would not lose its faith in peace, and called on all parties to work for a peace that was permanent, comprehensive, and not based on any double standard.

31. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia) said that, while the rest of the world was preoccupied with development, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, the Palestinians continued their daily struggle just to survive. Their attention was focused on escaping violence and their right to a homeland was not fully respected. Israel's prolonged occupation of Palestinian territory continued to deepen the economic and social hardships of Palestinians. Nobody could survive if their access to health and education services, employment, markets and humanitarian assistance was severely restricted.

32. Until those issues were fully addressed, the deep sense of anger was unlikely to subside. The solution was to stop denying the economic, social and political rights of the Palestinian people. His delegation had repeatedly called for the national unity and territorial integrity of the Palestinian people, including East Jerusalem, to be preserved and the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the Occupied Palestinian Territory — to and from both East Jerusalem and the outside world — to be guaranteed. The inalienable rights of both the Palestinian people and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources must be fully respected. The international community must rededicate itself to achieving peace in the Middle East and to creating a viable and sovereign Palestinian State, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative. The United Nations and its agencies were also indispensable in alleviating the plight of the Palestinian people. Indonesia was ready to strengthen the Palestinians' capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in cooperation with the international community.

33. **Mr. Al-Ghanim** (Kuwait) said that the ESCWA report clearly demonstrated that Israel's arbitrary measures and disproportionate use of force were the principal causes of the deteriorating economic, social and health conditions in the occupied territories. Israel's destruction of Palestinian infrastructure, seizure of property, exploitation of natural resources, closure policies, and continued construction of the separation barrier were all contrary to international law as embodied in the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, United Nations resolutions, and the ICJ advisory opinion declaring the West Bank barrier illegal. Palestinians were deprived of the most basic freedoms, let alone the possibility of realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Palestinian unemployment was as high as ever and the poverty rate was well over 50 per cent. The Israeli army had uprooted trees, levelled land and destroyed water sources. According to the World Bank, Palestinian economic performance lagged well behind its potential, and outside aid was being obstructed. Women and children were bearing the brunt of that unsustainable economic situation, and also accounted for a sizable share of the death, injury and imprisonment perpetrated by the Israeli Army and settlers. In the occupied Syrian Golan as well, Israel had seized land, appropriated water resources and isolated the Arab population from their mother country. The report's conclusions only highlighted the need for

a just and comprehensive peace in the region, which could be achieved only by Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and by granting to the peoples in those territories their full rights under international law.

34. **Mr. Zoubi** (Jordan) noted from the report that the Israeli occupation, illegal settlements and the separation wall had a direct negative effect on the economic and social lives of the people under Israeli occupation. It was ironic that, while the whole world was working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, one country was systematically and deliberately working to undermine the attainment of those Goals by people under its occupation. Such policies had a dangerous spillover effect on poor desperate young people that might threaten countries outside the region.

35. Recalling the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel and the Oslo Agreement between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, he emphasized the need to achieve and maintain a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on the international terms of reference of the peace process, the Arab Peace Initiative and the two-State solution envisaged in the road map. Israeli practices hindered peace and had a serious negative effect on the road map. The dangerous consequences of such policies were exacerbated by Israel's continued defiance of United Nations resolutions. In that regard, he called on Israel to cease all settlement activities in the occupied territories; to stop the construction of the separation wall; to return the properties it had seized; and to pay compensation for damage incurred.

36. **Mr. Benfreha** (Algeria) said that the report made it quite clear that the Israeli occupation was the primary cause of the Palestinian people's worsening socio-economic situation and that Israel's deliberate policy was the cause of the poverty and humanitarian crisis in the occupied Arab territories.

37. The devastating effects of armed conflicts must not be forgotten when discussing development issues. The Palestinian people continued to suffer the agony of occupation and unwarranted collective punishment, while Lebanon had been caught up in an unjust war imposed by Israel.

38. It was clear from the report that Israel persisted in its policy of arbitrary detentions, disproportionate use of force, destruction of infrastructure, mobility restrictions, closures, and confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources for settlements. The construction of the barrier, meanwhile, was a blatant violation of the Geneva Convention and the fundamental rules of international law, and went against the will of the international community, as expressed in the July 2004 ICJ advisory opinion. The closure by Israel of crossings for the transfer of goods contravened global trade norms and had a significant impact on the Palestinian economy.

39. More than ever, the international community must honour its commitments to the Palestinian people and the population in the Golan, reaffirming their inalienable right to their natural resources and thereby allowing them to enjoy sustainable development.

40. **Mr. Manor** (Israel) said that Israel had a vested interest in improving the Palestinian economy, for the benefit of both sides. Progress was dependent on a stable security situation and on cooperation from the Palestinians and the international community. It was therefore fitting that all parties should act in a manner that would advance economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians and that important economic interests should not be sacrificed to political considerations.

41. Economic cooperation could not continue while the Hamas Government pursued its policy of terror against Israeli citizens. Income from Palestinians employed inside Israel had dropped drastically, owing to the fact that the Palestinian Authority had been turning a blind eye to acts of terrorism, releasing convicted terrorists from prison, and allowing illegally armed militias to engage in armed violence against Israel with impunity.

42. The one-sided ESCWA report totally ignored the dramatic increase in attempts to perpetrate terrorist attacks inside Israel, since the departure of the Israel Defense Forces from the Gaza Strip. Not only had the Hamas Government been actively involved in terrorist actions, it had assisted other terrorist groups in carrying out attacks against Israel. The report also failed to recognize that the sole aim of current Israeli military operations was to have a recently abducted soldier returned and to prevent the continuation of terrorist attacks from Gaza against Israel and its citizens.

43. The report had mentioned the security fence several times, while deliberately ignoring the reasons

for its construction. The fence was designed to prevent terrorists from carrying out attacks in Israel and did not annex any territory to Israel. A large majority of the Palestinian terrorist attacks committed since September 2000 had emanated from the West Bank. Israel had been searching for ways to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and the decision to build a security fence had been taken only after other options had failed. With respect to the fence and water issues, most of the water wells in the West Bank were on the eastern side of the fence and thus were not affected, while those located west of the fence were continuously in operation.

44. As regarded the closure of border crossings, the Erez and Karni crossings had been built to increase economic cooperation between Israel and Palestine, not as a gateway for terrorist infiltrations or smuggling of weapons and explosives into Israeli territory. The only reason certain crossings were sometimes closed was to prevent terrorist organizations from perpetrating acts of terror against the Israeli population. Hamas had a longstanding plan to attack the largest goods crossing in Gaza and was therefore directly responsible for the hardships stemming from the closure of the crossings.

45. Israel had been collaborating with other countries and international organizations to help the Palestinians achieve the Millennium Development Goals. However, no positive progress could be made without peace and goodwill on the part of all concerned. Terrorist attacks were never justified and were particularly tragic when the disputed issues could have been settled through negotiations.

46. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel could not defend his country's actions against the Palestinian people's rights and resources. With respect to accusations of imbalances in the report, the facts had been corroborated in independent international reports as well as Israeli reports.

47. One year after Israel's departure from Gaza, the Palestinian people continued to suffer mentally and physically from relentless and often indiscriminate bombing and shelling campaigns from air, land and sea. They were even being tormented by terrifying sonic booms at low altitudes, which had been condemned by human rights organizations as war crimes.

48. Israel stood alone in its defence of the construction of its expansionist wall in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. The international community endorsed the ICJ advisory opinion that the wall was illegal and that Israel's claims of security needs were insufficient and irrelevant. The Court had also held that no military necessities or national security requirements could justify the breaches of the Palestinians' rights caused by the routing of the wall. The Israeli Government itself had admitted that the planned route was political. It was therefore time for the occupying Power to stop defending the indefensible and face its responsibilities, in accordance with international law.

49. It would be interesting to know how the Israelis were planning to improve the economic situation of the Palestinians and, for that matter, achieve peace and security. In the presence of terrorism by telephone, shelling and sonic booms, house demolitions, razing and confiscation of lands, one might well ask who was the real terrorist.

50. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that a number of United Nations resolutions deplored the tragic situation in the occupied Palestinian territory as well as Israel's violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Israelis apparently did not understand that their actions were indefensible and that the era of advocating the advantages of occupation had come to an end. It was time for Israel to respect the various United Nations resolutions and international treaties and cease its occupation of the Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/61/486)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/61/286)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/60/871; A/61/73, 91, 170, 187, 230, 315, 316, 321, 343, 345, 346, 506 and 515; and A/C.2/61/2)

(c) Culture and development (*continued*) (A/61/86 and 321 and A/61/378-S/2006/761)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*) (A/61/177)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*) (A/61/93, 126, 181 and 269)

51. **Mr. Motoc** (Romania) welcomed the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development as well as the Secretary-General's initiative to establish a global forum on international migration and development.

52. Migratory patterns involving Romania were expected to change significantly as the country became integrated into the European Union. Migration from Romania was slowing down, while migration to the country was likely to increase. As a country of both transit and origin, Romania was currently strengthening national migration legislation to provide adequate migrant, refugee and victim assistance and protection. It was also developing a new national migration policy that incorporated international best practices adapted to the country's specific conditions. Finally, it had devised a series of strategies aimed at ensuring full compatibility with the existing structures and measures for illegal immigration control in the European Union.

53. The fight against organized crime was being waged in close cooperation with the competent authorities of the other European countries. The Romanian Government had signed numerous agreements on international police cooperation and readmission and was actively working on the preparation of passports incorporating biometric markers. It had also established partnerships with neighbouring countries to prevent and combat illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

54. If properly managed, migration could contribute to development in the countries of destination, transit and origin. Romania stood ready to participate in all dialogue and to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and global levels.

55. **Mr. Diallo** (Guinea), addressing the question of international migration and development, said that his delegation agreed in general with the analysis and proposals in document A/60/871. Sending, transit and receiving States, in a spirit of shared responsibility, should incorporate in their development policies and programmes measures to ensure a sustainable response to the issues involved in international migration. He listed a number of those measures, noting that States should, in particular, ensure that migrants moved mainly through legal channels; protect the rights of migrants; prevent the exploitation of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations; combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons; and facilitate the repatriation of migrants in a manner respectful of their human dignity.

56. At the international level, a framework based on co-development goals could lead to novel initiatives to promote the beneficial effects of international migration. To that end, the potential of national diasporas as engines of and added value for development and cooperation should be explored and developed, and should be taken into account in poverty reduction strategies and national development policies and programmes. His Government had established innovative financing mechanisms, particularly by channelling resources raised through co-development and decentralized cooperation towards financing for development. The international community should develop realistic and pragmatic solutions in order to make migration promote development cooperation. By managing migration in a harmonious and mutually beneficial manner, the international community could forcefully reaffirm its will to take resolute action against poverty, persecution, rejection and stigmatization, and to promote consensual political and operational dialogue on international migration.

57. Guinea's long tradition of tolerance towards migrants explained the importance it attached to establishing closer links between migration and development. A national forum on co-development and decentralized cooperation to be held in Conakry, Guinea, in March 2007 would bring together national development actors, technical and financial partners and representatives of the Guinean diaspora for the purpose of developing policies, strategies and instruments to mobilize the additional financing necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

58. **Ms. Jusufaj** (Albania), addressing the question of globalization and interdependence, said that integration was a priority for her Government, not only in order to

consolidate its identity as a democratic country operating in the free market, but also as a step forward in the process of globalization. Her delegation agreed with the recommendation in document A/61/286 that special emphasis should be placed on improving national educational systems at all levels, particularly with respect to science and technology. Recognizing the value of information and communication technologies for socio-economic development, her Government had adopted strategies to increase the use of information technology in Albania.

59. Turning to the question of international migration and development, she said that evidence of the potential mutual benefits of migration for countries, such as sharing of experience and building partnerships, was increasing. Her Government, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, had launched a programme to engage the Albanian diaspora in the scientific, administrative and economic development of her country.

60. With regard to the question of preventing and combating corruption, she said that, although the economy of Albania operated within the framework of free market principles, corruption and bureaucratic procedures had been the main obstacles to the creation of a favourable climate for foreign investment. To address those problems, her Government had ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption and was working to incorporate its provisions into its domestic legal system. Measures were in place to encourage and reward whistleblowers in corruption cases, and considerable progress had been made in advancing the rule of law.

61. The fight against extralegality aimed to provide poor and disadvantaged groups with the means to become stakeholders in the formal economy and was an essential component of her country's process of integration with Europe. Additional steps Albania was taking to attract FDI and promote its integration with Europe and the world economy included ensuring macroeconomic stability and advancing institutional reforms.

62. The accession of her country to membership in WTO and the signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement had led to the conclusion of free trade agreements between Albania and the countries of South-Eastern Europe, and the establishment of a free trade area was on the horizon.

63. In conclusion, she conveyed her Government's appreciation to the international community for its ongoing support of her country's efforts to integrate into the world economy and achieve sustainable development.

64. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu Aguirre** (Mexico) underscored the importance of the integrated approach which the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had taken to the many complex issues involved in dealing with the subject. Moreover, as the Dialogue had made clear, inasmuch as most countries were simultaneously sending, transit and receiving States, they must adopt coherent policies and a coherent vision of migration as a potential force for co-development, which brought short-, medium- and long-term benefits to sending and receiving countries alike.

65. His delegation supported the proposal to continue the dialogue on international migration and development in a global forum under United Nations auspices. The forum's work should ultimately enable Member States to take comprehensive decisions on the issues involved. The experience of regional organizations and consultative processes should be taken into account, and participation should be open to all relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, as well as to representatives of civil society and the private sector.

66. **Mr. Sadykov** (Kazakhstan), addressing the question of globalization and interdependence, said that, given the major role of science, technology and education in enabling countries to enhance national competitiveness and achieve sustained economic growth and development, it was vitally important to strengthen international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development.

67. The primary objective of his country's innovation effort was to use new technologies to ensure sustainable economic growth, develop high-technology enterprises and mitigate environmental and social problems. He described a number of major initiatives his country had taken to promote science and technology and said that his Government provided substantial assistance to university students.

68. With regard to the question of international migration and development, his delegation believed that migration, if properly managed, offered considerable potential for the development of sending,

transit and receiving countries. In 2006 Kazakhstan had launched the first pilot campaign in the Commonwealth of Independent States to legalize illegal migrant workers. It was a party to bilateral treaties and multilateral conventions which protected the rights of migrants directly or indirectly and worked closely with international organizations and United Nations agencies.

69. As to the question of preventing and combating corruption, his delegation agreed with the conclusion in document A/61/177 that good governance and the establishment and strengthening of the national apparatus in line with the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability were of paramount importance for achieving sustainable development and economic growth. He described various measures his Government had adopted to prevent and combat corruption.

70. With regard to the question of the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy, he said that his country had been totally transformed by the structural reforms it had been carrying out since independence. The World Bank had included Kazakhstan among the top 20 most attractive economies for investment, and negotiations on his country's admission to WTO were in the final stages.

71. The issues covered by the agenda item under consideration had a significant impact on economic development and well-being for developing countries and developed countries alike, and proper collective management of the issues was essential if Member States were to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and their future generations were to prosper.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.18

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
16 November 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 18th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 23 October 2006, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Fonseca (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Brazil)

Contents

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*)

(c) Culture and development (*continued*)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*)

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06-58219 (E)

In the absence of Ms. Intelmann (Estonia), Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 5.15 p.m.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/61/486)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/60/871, A/61/73, A/61/91, A/61/170, A/61/187, A/61/230, A/61/315, A/61/316, A/61/321, A/61/343, A/61/345, A/61/346, A/61/506, A/61/515, A/C.2/61/2)

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(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*) (A/61/177)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*) (A/61/269, A/61/93, A/61/126 and A/61/181)

1. **Mr. Almajib** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the benefits of globalization had been uneven, and greater international cooperation was necessary for them to be realized fully and fairly. Developing countries needed access to advanced technology to boost productive capacities. The recommendations of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society should be followed up in that regard. The global trade system should guarantee developing countries unrestricted access to markets. Developing countries were also in need of institutions to enhance economic performance, and there should be support for countries dependent on basic commodity exports to diversify their economies. Privatization and the market alone were not sufficient to resolve development challenges and institutional reforms to protect against economic fluctuations were also needed. Sound management and transparency were required in both national and international financial institutions. Increasing economic interdependence required a balance between national political priorities and international principles.

2. The recent High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had reflected awareness on the part of the international community of the economic, social and cultural significance of migration. Migration could have beneficial effects on growth in both the country of origin and the destination country, if human rights and the right of States to protect their borders were upheld. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had stressed on many occasions that economic development in the countries from which migration flowed was the key to stemming illegal migration, and was committed to the African Union's plan for continent-wide economic integration. It had invested in agricultural and industrial projects and was trying to organize a meeting between African and European ministers on illegal migration. The effects of development also needed to be tempered by efforts to preserve national cultural identities.

3. **Ms. Tchitanava** (Georgia) welcomed the recent High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, which had provided much-needed impetus to efforts to place migration issues on the international agenda. Effectively managed migration could be beneficial to all countries — whether countries of origin, transit or destination — but a number of urgent issues must be addressed in order to prevent illegal migration, trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and human rights abuses.

4. Georgia had been significantly affected by international migration. During the 1990s, the country's socio-economic situation had forced people to travel abroad for work and education, and it was estimated that more than 20 per cent of its population had left the country since it had achieved independence in 1989. Another factor had been the outbreak of conflict in two of the country's regions: Abkhazia and South Ossetia. As a result of its economic reform efforts, Georgia had become a more attractive place in which to invest and work. However, remittances were an important source of revenue for many Georgian households, and continued to grow as a percentage of the country's GDP. The provision of legal opportunities to work abroad was therefore very important to Georgia. Promoting and protecting the rights of migrant workers and minimizing discrimination against them should be the focus of international efforts, as should combating trafficking in human beings.

5. In the name of combating organized crime, terrorism and illegal migration, the Russian Federation was actively profiling and discriminating against Georgian citizens, including women and children. Strict tax inspections were carried out on every business associated with Georgians, and the police hunted down and detained anybody of "Georgian appearance". The mass deportation of migrants, regardless of their legal status, was conducted in an inhumane and humiliating manner. Such actions were a blatant violation of international humanitarian law. Moreover, since Georgia was a country of transit, the Russian embargo damaged not only the Georgian economy, but also those of neighbouring and other countries. In a world in which the international community was endeavouring to strengthen peace and security, promote human rights, and improve development, such conduct should be condemned as inadmissible.

6. **Mr. Alsaker** (Norway) said that technology alone, without the appropriate democratic policy framework, would do little to promote sustainable development and bridge the digital divide. Any Government wishing to enable its people to prosper and develop as members of the new global information society must promote and protect human rights, including the right to freedom of expression. Good governance played a crucial role with respect to all aspects of globalization, including migration. The recent High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development had provided a good opportunity to discuss how international migration should be managed and how migration could contribute to development.

7. It was expected that international migration would increase in extent and complexity owing to economic disparities, demographic trends and conflicts. Such multidimensional challenges must be addressed at all levels, including through multilateral cooperation, and the United Nations should play an important role in migration issues. Improving economic and political conditions, protecting rights in countries of origin, and ensuring a regulated and reasonable migration environment would benefit both rich and poor countries. In order to promote stability and growth, both the social and the economic effects of international migration should be addressed. The fundamental challenges were the same for all countries, but affected them in different ways. Countries must ensure rights-based and sustainable development which provided fair distribution and real opportunities for all people, whether nationals or immigrants, to find decent work and make a living. Moreover, the underlying factors that led to uncontrolled migration should be improved.

8. In order to address some of those issues, Norway would take specific measures in the following areas: the equitable distribution of labour rights, the gender aspect of migration, children and youth, flexibility of migration patterns, action to limit the brain drain, development of a cheaper and more secure system for private money transfers and participation in international efforts to combat human trafficking, based on prevention, protection and prosecution.

9. **Mr. Teymurov** (Azerbaijan) said he was pleased that science and technology as a multidimensional aspect of globalization had been identified as a focus of the Committee's deliberations, as they were central to the advancement of societies and to the achievement of socio-economic development and, in the context of globalization, remained a key factor affecting world growth and development. The promotion of technological innovation and scientific advancement should therefore be an integral part of development strategies. It was necessary to put in place policies that would enable developing countries to benefit from new technologies and explore, as well as utilize, their own technological capacities.

10. Azerbaijan's economic policy was based on the liberalization of economic activity, the dismantling of monopolies and the development of the private sector. As a result of recent market reforms, it had significantly improved its economic performance and attracted greater foreign investment. Those trends were expected to continue over the coming years, despite the occupation of 20 per cent of its territory. The bulk of foreign investment was in the oil and gas sector, which was the driving force for the whole economy. However, the Government was determined to develop the non-oil sector of the economy in order to diversify economic production and enhance its competitiveness in international markets. It was also pursuing administrative reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency of public administration. The development of Azerbaijan's oil and gas resources and their delivery through the East-West energy corridor provided a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth and for the stability of the region, and was also helping to

diversify the energy supplies and energy security of European countries.

11. **Mr. Al-Hababi** (Qatar) said that, regrettably, the technology gap was widening not only between the developed and developing States, but among developing States themselves. Developing countries needed to know how to make maximum use of technology in the context of their individual needs. He expressed support for all the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report on the role of innovation, science and technology in pursuing development in the context of globalization (A/61/286). An enabling environment for technology acquisition needed to be created in developing countries by encouraging investment, especially in youth, and fostering commercial innovation and a spirit of partnership. Both the public and private sectors had a role to play in building infrastructure and creating technology transfer networks. Special attention needed to be paid to the priorities of developing States and creating solutions that were accessible to all. Development strategies also needed to be integrated more sensitively into the cultural traditions of each society. Cultural diversity and dialogue had an essential role to play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

12. In the era of globalization, migration was of particular concern to countries of origin, transit and destination. Remittances were second only to foreign assistance as a source of income for developing countries, and it was important to reduce their cost. While legal migration served to fill gaps in the labour market in destination countries, it also created a brain drain in countries of origin that needed to be stemmed. The Millennium Summit had addressed the issue of protecting migrants' human rights. In Qatar, all migrants' human rights were ensured.

13. His delegation welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Corruption was a major obstacle to the mobilization of resources for development and preventing it was important to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. National legislation and international instruments should focus on the return of assets of illicit origin to their countries of origin. Qatar called on the private sector, at the national and international levels, to follow up its commitment to fight corruption and invited the United Nations to ensure corporate responsibility on this issue.

14. **Ms. Simonova** (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) said that the vast majority of international migrants were women and young people. While some found increased autonomy and freedom, others found themselves in gender-segregated and unregulated sectors of the economy. They often faced discrimination, exploitation and violence and, in the worst cases, became victims of ruthless traffickers.

15. The UNFPA report *State of World Population 2006* and the accompanying volume on youth migrants entitled "Moving Young" stressed the urgent need to integrate gender and human rights into migration policies and to curb trafficking. Specifically, stronger and more coordinated action was needed to support the victims and bring traffickers to justice.

16. While migration had an immense potential for advancing development, many countries, particularly in Africa, were suffering from a severe shortage of health workers as a result of migration. The brain drain was especially devastating for the countries most affected by HIV/AIDS and increased the likelihood that they would not meet the development goals. To strengthen health workforce capacity, donor support needed to be aligned with nationally defined strategies. Various initiatives had already been taken in that area and UNFPA remained committed to working with Governments and other partners to ensure that further progress was achieved.

17. The recommendations made at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo remained valid. In that regard, UNFPA continued to facilitate policy cooperation and to promote the human rights of migrants, including the right to sexual and reproductive health. It also supported national capacity-building for formulating and monitoring gender-sensitive migration programmes and for integrating migration issues into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

18. **Ms. Brandwayn** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that building capacity in science, technology and innovation should be an essential part of every country's strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Accordingly, policymakers in developing countries were establishing ministries of science and technology and investing more resources in targeted science development programmes. They were also seeking advice from international and regional organizations

which, in turn, were striving to improve their institutional capacity to respond effectively.

19. It had been widely recognized that FDI could be a vehicle for transfer of technology and, as such, a way to promote local science, technology and innovation development. To attract FDI, developing countries needed to create basic institutional frameworks that fostered innovation and strengthened domestic innovative capabilities.

20. UNCTAD assisted developing countries by conducting national investment policy reviews at their request. Those reviews were currently being expanded to include an analysis of the impact of FDI on the development of domestic technical capabilities, by improving competitiveness and contributing to export diversification and increased revenues.

21. **Mr. Bahlouli** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that, in its efforts to help the poor generate income and to foster economic growth through wealth creation, UNIDO placed particular emphasis on specialized programmes for entrepreneurship and private sector development that generated new jobs and reduced the exodus of migrants. It also offered services in small enterprise and business development, the development of agro-industries, the creation of a conducive investment climate and the diffusion and transfer of modern technologies.

22. UNIDO helped to stimulate economic growth in poor countries of origin by advising governments on industrial policies and strategies that created non-farm employment and income in rural areas. As industrialization progressed, UNIDO offered services such as investment promotion, trade capacity-building and technology transfer to stimulate further economic growth.

23. Finally, at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2006, UNIDO and the International Labour Organization had organized a round table to discuss the problem of unemployment among the young, particularly in West Africa. It was expected that a demonstration programme would soon be implemented in West Africa to address the pressing problems of unemployment in that region.

24. **Mr. Piminov** (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Committee could conduct a fruitful debate only if all delegations adhered to the agenda in a constructive spirit. Unfortunately, a large part of the statement by the representative of Georgia had been tendentious and irrelevant to the item under discussion and intended to politicize the Committee's work. The Russian Federation wished to cooperate with all countries on matters of migration: millions of people arriving in Russia found shelter and work there, and the billions of dollars transferred by migrants helped to stabilize the situation in their home countries. Of course, the Russian State ensured compliance with its laws, including the laws regulating the sojourn of migrants in its territory. Since illegal migration had close connections to crime, it was natural for law-enforcement measures to be taken against migrants who broke the law. That was a right and a duty.

25. **Ms. Tchitanova** (Georgia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the discriminatory measures against Georgian migrants had been documented by Russian agencies and NGOs and that the topic was relevant to the agenda of the Second Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.